

REMARKS

In response to the requirement for restriction, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-6, Group II, namely Claims 7-12, Group III, and namely Claims 13-14. Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-6) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement in light of the amended claims as presented herewith and the accompanying remarks.

With regard to the objection under rule 13.1 and 13.2 PCT based upon the lack of a single general inventive concept, the claims have been amended to better stress the common general inventive concept forming the basis of the present invention. It should be noted that the molecules of the invention of Group I (claims 1-6) have been specifically designed for the gas-phase chemical deposition of a metal, which is the object of the claims of Group II (claims 7 to 12). The methods of the claims of group III (claims 13 and 14) include the method steps defined in claims 7 to 12. Whatever the substituents on the core molecule, the application of the method of claims 7 to 12 leads to the deposition of the metal copper or silver on the support. Consequently, there is a general inventive concept between the inventions of Groups I to III.

With respect to the election of species requirement, applicant submits that the claims of the application are generic and the species claimed form a single inventive concept under rule 13.1PCT for the following reasons:

In formula (I), L is defined in claim 1 by its function: a stabilizing ligand. Such a definition is sufficiently clear for the skilled person and forms the basis of the unity of invention.

When examining the molecules listed in claim 2 in more detail, it is clear that these molecules all have in common a double or triple bond or a doublet on an atom (like P in phosphines) which is the structural characteristic permitting this molecule to play its role as a ligand.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant submits that there is unity of invention with respect to the species, in that they form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the election of species requirement.

If the Examiner is not convinced by the above arguments, then applicant elects the compounds of formula (III). There appears to be a mistake in the Office Action at page 3, in that paragraph c) corresponds to formula (II), f) to formula (III) and g) to formula IV.

The support material is also a functional generic definition which in itself is the basis of the unity of invention. The support materials of claim 8 have in common that they are based on semiconductors and metals and composed solely of atoms found in columns III, IV and V of the Mendeleyev Periodic classification of elements.

If the Examiner is not convinced by the foregoing arguments, the applicant elects species a), Si, SiC and SiGe.

The intermediate layer materials of claim 9 are based on Ti, Ta and W which all three are metals belonging to three neighboring columns of the Mendeleyev Periodic classification of elements. The intermediate layers are known in themselves and as such form a unitary group of compounds.

If the Examiner is not convinced by these arguments, the applicant elects species a) TiN, TiSiN.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,
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